

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /093 W

-----031048Z 051662 /13

R 031005Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WSHDC 7722

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS PRETORIA 2724

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: RH, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, MZ

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN REACTIONS TO RHODESIAN RAID

1. PRESS COVERAGE IN BOTH ENGLISH AND AFRIKAANS PAPERS OF RHODESIAN RAID IN MOZAMBIQUE WAS EXTENSIVE THROUGHOUT LAST WEEK. REPORTING HAS BEEN FACTUAL WHEREAS EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS BEEN MOSTLY CRITICAL. CRUX OF COMMENT HAS BEEN THAT AN OUTSIDER COULD UNDERSTAND RHODESIA'S TEMPTATION TO STRIKE AT BASE CAMPS, BUT RAID WAS BADLY TIMED. THREE AREAS OF CONCERN ARE FOCUSED ON BY PRESS ACCOUNTS: FIRST OF ALL, POSSIBILITY OF UPSETTING DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS BEING CONDUCTED BY BRITISH AND AMERICANS; SECOND, POSSIBILITY OF RAID CAUSING INCREASED SOVIET AND CUBAN PRESENCE IN MOZAMBIQUE; AND, THIRD, FACT THAT IT DEVELOPED INTO MORE THAN UNCLASSIFIED

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"HOT PURSUIT" OPERATION, WHICH MANY SOUTH AFRICAN OBSERVERS FEEL IS JUSTIFIED. FURTHER DIMENSION BROACHED BY ONE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER IS FACT THAT BRITISH AND AMERICANS CALLED ON SAG TO HELP ENCOURAGE RHODESIA'S WITHDRAWAL. IT COMMENTS THAT CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE SAG IS CAPABLE OF PLAYING HAS BEEN PROVED, BUT THAT US HAS "OVERPLAYED ITS HAND" IN DEMANDING "ONE-MAN,

ONE-VOTE" FOR SOUTH AFRICA AND THEREFORE SAG HAS NO  
INCENTIVE " TO SMOOTH THE WAY FOR PEACE IN RHODESIA."

2. SAG REACTION HAS BEEN MINIMAL. THERE WERE NO  
PUBLIC STATEMENTS DURING RAID. ON JUNE 2, FOREIGN  
MINISTER BOTHA WAS QUOTED IN PRESS AS CONFIRMING THAT  
SAG " HAS SPOKEN TO THE RHODESIANS." HE WOULD NOT  
ELABORATE EXCEPT TO SAY THAT HE HAD POINTED OUT  
"ALTERNATIVES REGARDING THE MATTER." PRESS WENT ON  
TO SPECULATE THAT IT WAS SAG POLICY NOT TO APPLY  
PRESSURE ON RHODESIA AND IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT IT DID  
SO IN THIS CASE. ALONG THIS LINE, SAG CONTROLLED RADIO  
COMMENTED JUNE 3 THAT SAG WAS TOTALLY NEUTRAL ON THIS  
MATTER IN KEEPING WITH LONG STANDING POLICY  
OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN OTHER COUNTRIES. BOWDLER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, COMBAT OPERATIONS, BORDER INCIDENTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**TAGS:** PINS, PFOR, MOPS, RH, MZ  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009